

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A document management system.. The system uses well known MACs, Message Authentication Codes, or equivalents. In general, an MAC is used to authenticate a copy of a document. First, the document is fed to a specific algorithm, which produces the MAC. Then a copy-to-be-verified is fed to the same algorithm. If the same MAC is obtained, the copy is taken as authenticated. Under the invention, when maintenance is undertaken on an aircraft, a technician uses a computer to generate a digital document describing the maintenance. An MAC is generated for the digital document. The technician encrypts the MAC, using the technician's encryption key. The encrypted MAC is attached to the digital document, and the pair is stored. Now, any copies of the document can be validated by (1) de-crypting the MAC and (2) validating the document using the MAC. In one embodiment, no paper documents are generated, nor signed, at the time of the maintenance.